

DATE: December 9, 2024

TO: Board of Library Trustees

FROM: Tracy Gray, Library Director
Katie Hom, Librarian

SUBJECT: **Library Director's Report**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Library's regular operating hours will change due to the holidays:
 - Closed Tuesday, December 24, through Thursday, December 26, in observance of Christmas.
 - Open with limited hours from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Monday, December 30.
 - Closed Tuesday, December 31, 2024, through Wednesday, January 1, 2025, in observance of New Year's.

CALIFORNIA FREEDOM TO READ ACT

[Assembly Bill 1825](#) was just signed by [Governor Gavin Newsom](#). The bill prohibits banning books because of the race, nationality, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, socioeconomic status, or political affiliation of a book's subject, author, or intended audience.

The bill also requires libraries to develop and make public a policy governing how library staff select, acquire, and manage library materials. The policy must include a process for the public to challenge library materials. This bill protects library staff from being fired or disciplined if they follow the policy when they make programming decisions or refuse to remove a book.

PORTABLE CHARGERS

Customers looking to charge their phone, tablet, or other device may borrow one of two portable chargers at the Library's second-floor information desk for up to two hours. The chargers have built-in cables for USB-C, iOS/Lightning, and Micro USB devices. USB-A or USB-C cables are available for connecting to a wall adapter or laptop.



SOCIAL STORY

Library staff created a [Social Story](#) that residents can access through the [Children and Teen page](#). The Social Story is a visual resource designed to prepare children for a visit to the Library and explains what they might see, hear, and experience. Children with sensory needs may find the narrative especially useful.

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Residents were invited to celebrate Native American Heritage Month with the Library by attending a virtual author talk, where guest speakers shared personal experiences and dove deeper into Native American history.

- Navajo Ranger [Stanley Milford, Jr.](#) joined us online to talk about the chilling and clear-eyed memoir [The Paranormal Ranger](#), which recounts his investigations into bizarre cases of the paranormal and the unexplained in Navajoland.
- History professor and critically acclaimed nonfiction author [Kathleen DuVal](#) discussed her history book [Native Nations: A Millennium in North America](#). Her work shows how the definitions of power and the means of exerting it have shifted over time, but the

sovereignty and influence of Native peoples remained a constant and will continue far into the future.

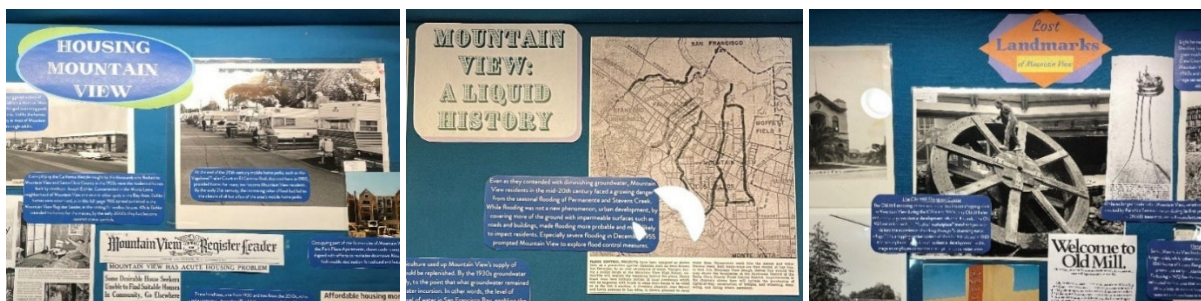
- [Mona Susan Power](#) chatted about her newest novel, [A Council of Dolls](#). Her book explores Native rights and Native American culture using an important symbol that anchors comfort and companionship in Native life: dolls. Staff also published booklists for [youth](#) and [adults](#) to the website and created a book and media display.



LOCAL HISTORY DISPLAYS

Library staff have refreshed three Mountain View history displays outside the Second Floor Program Room. These displays feature photographs and clippings from the History Center collection and focus on Mountain View's housing history, water history, and landmarks that have been lost—gone wandering—over the years.

The [History Center](#) is open on Tuesdays from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m or by appointment.



SILICON VALLEY READS 2025

Each year, [Silicon Valley Reads](#) brings Mountain View together with neighboring Santa Clara County libraries and other organizations to read and learn about an important topic that will jumpstart conversations. Next year's theme, "Empowering Humanity: Technology for a Better World," will highlight books and events that focus on how artificial intelligence will impact our lives and the future of our communities as well as the ethics surrounding its usage. Featured books for adults include [The Worlds I See: Curiosity, Exploration and Discover at the Dawn of AI](#) by Dr. Fei-Fei Li, [The Mountain in the Sea](#) by Ray Nayler, and [Loneliness & Company](#) by Charlee Dyroff.

The Library will provide programming related to Silicon Valley Reads and its theme in the first quarter of 2025.

WELLNESS ACTIVITIES

The Library's Wellness Committee has been working hard to provide staff with fun treats and activities. Retired police dog Zeus enjoyed lots of attention from Library staff who stopped by to meet and play with him. In October, the Committee treated staff to a spread of donuts, candy, fruit, hot apple cider, and other treats on Halloween. Staff also received a shirt with the Library's embroidered logo.

The Wellness Committee's next event will be a holiday party for staff on Wednesday, December 11.



KUDOS CORNER

The Library received a kind comment on Facebook in response to the Halloween Trick-or-Treat event.

“Thank you for hosting a Halloween event with non-edible treats so that all kids, including those with food allergies or food restrictions, can fully participate. Nice to see too that kids up to 18 are included. That’s wonderful. Glad to see this at our local library. I’m a Mountain View resident and love our library.”

PROGRAMS

Past Program Highlights

Twenty-three (23) children enjoyed reading to therapy dogs at the Pages and Paws Reading Buddy program. The dogs provided a comforting presence for children as they navigated the exciting realm of books. This initiative aims to build confidence, enhance literacy skills, and instill a lifelong love for reading.



Twenty-three (23) attendees joined a gardening program to learn how to care for roses. Master Gardener Martha Carpenter included a pruning demonstration.



Fifty-five (55) children created impressive and meaningful works of print-art under the guidance of painter, printmaker, and sculptor Calixto Robles. Robles' art, inspired by Meso-America, First Nation people, and ancient Eastern and Western cultures, uses natural and supernatural figures to create art that reflect his passions for social justice and climate change. Supplies were provided, and participants were also invited to bring their own blank tote bag or t-shirt to print on. This event was generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.



Other Past Programs

- Friday, November 1—Pages and Paws Reading Buddy—Attendance: 23
- Tuesday, November 5—Outdoor Storytime—Attendance: 173
- Tuesday, November 5—3D Printing Workshop: Advanced Tinkercad Class, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 3
- Wednesday, November 6—ESL Conversation Club—Attendance: 27
- Wednesday, November 6—Creating Effective Rain Gardens—Attendance: 6
- Wednesday, November 6—Bilingual Storytime: Mandarin/English—Attendance: 33
- Thursday, November 7—Let's Create—Attendance: 51
- Thursday, November 7—A Navajo Investigator's Search for the Unexplained: In Conversation with Stanley Milford, Jr., sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 9
- Thursday, November 7—Avoiding Scams, Fraud, and Identity Theft—Attendance: 17
- Thursday, November 7—Evening Sensory Storytime—Attendance: 10

- Friday, November 8—Baby Storytime—Attendance: 69
- Saturday, November 9—Roses: Choosing, Planting, Winter Care, and Pruning—Attendance: 23
- Saturday, November 9—Sobre la migración infantil desde Centroamérica: En conversación con Javier Zamora, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 9
- Tuesday, November 12—Outdoor Storytime—Attendance: 164
- Tuesday, November 12—Ask a Dietitian: What is a Whole Food Plant-Based Diet? 請問營養師: 什麼是純天然, 植物性飲食?—Attendance: 32
- Wednesday, November 13—ESL Conversation Club—Attendance: 27
- Thursday, November 14—On Childhood Migration from Central America: In Conversation with Javier Zamora—Attendance: 17
- Thursday, November 14—Evening Sensory Storytime—Attendance: 13
- Friday, November 15—Baby Storytime—Attendance: 71
- Saturday, November 16—Drop-in Bike Clinic, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 15
- Saturday, November 16—Print Arts Workshop with Calixto Robles, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 55
- Saturday, November 16—Native Nations: A Millennium in North America—Attendance: 6
- Tuesday, November 19—Outdoor Storytime—Attendance: 199
- Tuesday, November 19—Sewing with FabMo: Gift Card Holders, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 11
- Wednesday, November 20—Birthday Storytime—Attendance: 17
- Wednesday, November 20—ESL Conversation Club—Attendance: 23
- Wednesday, November 20—Native Rights and Culture in Fiction: A Conversation with Mona Susan Power, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 6

- Thursday, November 21—Let's Create—Attendance: 43
- Friday, November 22—Baby Storytime—Attendance: 104

Upcoming Programs

- Bel Canto Flutes
 - [Tuesday, December 3](#)—Bel Canto Flutes will present a holiday performance with music that spans the ages across several cultures, including many well-known favorites. This event is generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.
- Medicare Made Simple
 - [Wednesday, December 4](#)—Join us for an informational session on Medicare with professional financial advisor Claudette G. Klein. Attendees will learn about the value of health insurance and gain a better understanding of Medicare and its benefits.
- Pages and Paws Reading Buddy
 - [Friday, December 6](#)—Kids will enjoy reading to therapy dogs at this program that aims to build confidence, enhance literacy skills, and instill a lifelong love for reading.

The dogs will provide a comforting presence for children as they navigate the exciting realm of books.
- Winter Holiday Ukulele Jam
 - [Wednesday, December 11](#)—Learn and perform songs of the season at this winter holiday edition of Sing and Play Along Ukulele Jam. This event is generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.
- Winter Dance Party
 - [Tuesday, December 17](#)—Get the kids' dancing shoes ready! The Library DJ will play both popular and seasonal songs to get everyone moving and shaking at this fun and festive event.

- Winter Wonderland
 - [Thursday, December 19](#)—Enjoy an afternoon of craft stations inspired by the magic of winter. Adults are welcome to make crafts alongside their children, as there will be plenty of supplies for everyone.
- Holly Jolly Storytime
 - [Monday, December 23](#)—Come to an evening storytime where you will hear classic holiday stories and songs. Wear your favorite holiday pajamas and bring the whole family.
- Online Author Series, generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.
 - [Wednesday, December 4](#)—Come to a dazzling presentation with the emeritus curator of the Smithsonian's National Gem Collection, Dr. Jeffrey E. Post, as he shares anecdotes and tales of some of the world's greatest and most famous gemstones from his book, [The Smithsonian National Gem Collection Unearthed: Surprising Stories Behind the Jewels](#).
 - [Wednesday, December 11](#)—You are invited to a captivating conversation with No. 1 *New York Times* bestselling author of [The Last Thing He Told Me](#), Laura Dave, as she chats with us online about her newest book, [The Night We Lost Him](#).

For more upcoming events, view the [Mountain View Public Library's events calendar](#).

TG-KH/JP/4/LIB
021-12-09-24M